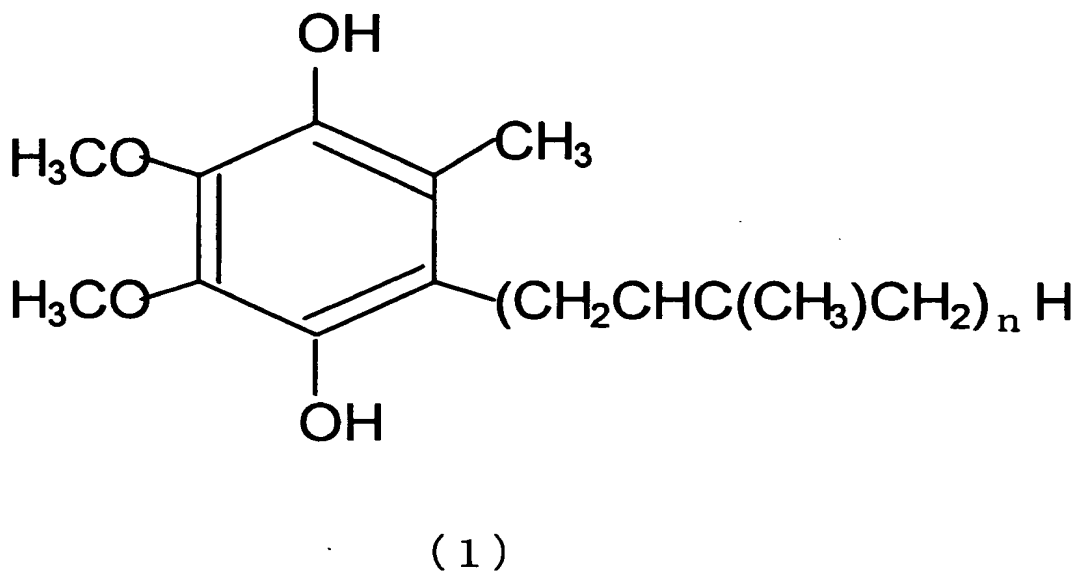


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (original): A composition for protecting liver functions, which comprises reduced coenzyme Q represented by formula (1):



(wherein n represents an integer in the range of 1 to 12).

2. (original): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the reduced coenzyme Q is reduced coenzyme Q<sub>10</sub>.

3. (currently amended): The composition according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the content of the reduced coenzyme Q is in the range of 0.001 to 99 percent by weight.

4. (currently amended): The composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, which further comprises a health food material.

5. (currently amended): A pharmaceutical formulation for protecting liver functions, which comprises the composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~.

6. (original): The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 5, which is in the form of a powder, or a capsule formulation.

7. (original): The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 5, which is in the form of a drinkable preparation, an injectable solution, or an infusion or a drops formulation.

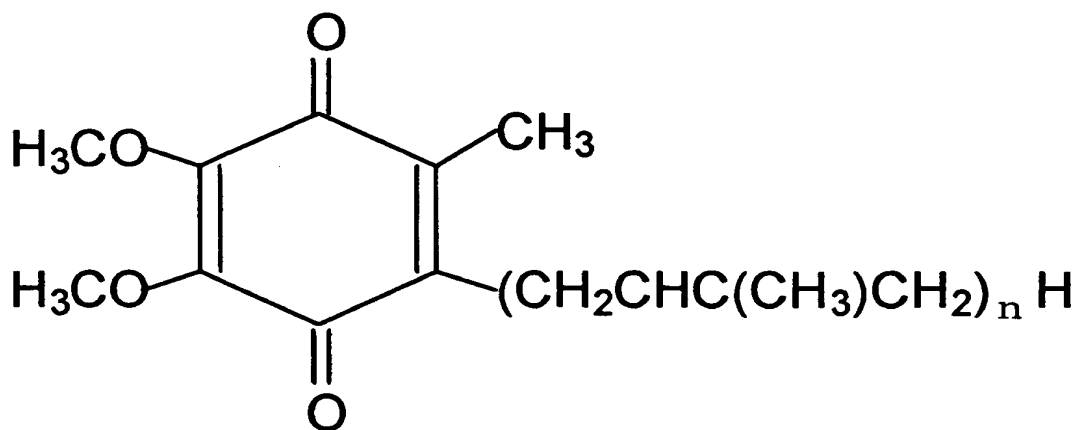
8. (currently amended): A functional food for protecting liver functions, which comprises the composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~.

9. (currently amended): An animal feeding stuff for protecting liver functions, which comprises the composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~.

10. (currently amended): A method for protecting liver functions of a mammal, which comprises administering to a mammal the composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~.

11. (currently amended): A method for protecting liver functions of a mammal, which comprises orally administering the composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~.

12. (original): A composition for protecting liver functions, which comprises oxidized coenzyme Q represented by formula (2) and selenium, wherein the content of the selenium is less than 0.01 percent by weight:



( 2 )

(wherein n represents an integer in the range of 1 to 12).

13. (original): The composition according to claim 12, which is used for oral administration.

14. (currently amended): The composition according to claim 12 ~~or 13~~, wherein the oxidized coenzyme Q is oxidized coenzyme Q<sub>10</sub>.

15. (currently amended): The composition according to claim 12 ~~any one of claims 12 to 14~~, wherein the content of the oxidized coenzyme Q is in the range of 0.001 to 99 percent by weight.

16. (currently amended): The composition according to claim 12 ~~any one of claims 12 to 15~~, which further comprises a health food material.

17. (currently amended): A pharmaceutical formulation for protecting liver functions, which comprises the composition according to claim 12 ~~any one of claims 12 to 16~~.

18. (original): The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 17, which is in the form of a granulation, a powder, or a capsule formulation.

19. (original): The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 17, which is in the form of a drinkable preparation, an injectable solution, or an infusion or a drops formulation.

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20. (currently amended): A functional food for protecting liver functions, which comprises the composition according to claim 12~~any one of claims 12 to 16~~.

21. (currently amended): An animal feeding stuff for protecting liver functions, which comprises the composition according to claim 12~~any one of claims 12 to 16~~.

22. (currently amended): A method for protecting liver functions of a mammal, which comprises administering to a mammal the composition according to claim 12~~any one of claims 12 to 16~~.